Exhibit A

Listing and Amendments to the Claims
For Preliminary Amendment

1. – 35. (Cancelled).

36. (New) A method for culturing plant material comprising the steps of:
(a) forming a layer of floatable granular substrate in a culturing vessel,
(b) placing plant material on or in said layer, and
(c) culturing the plant material in the presence of a culture medium, wherein there is no additional structure supporting the plant material from underneath,
wherein said floatable granular substrate comprises particles having an average diameter of 1-25 mm.

37. (New) The method according to Claim 36 wherein the culture medium is added before the layer of the granular substrate is formed.

38. (New) The method according to Claim 36 wherein the culture medium is added after the layer of the granular substrate is formed.

39. (New) The method according to Claim 36 wherein said particles have an irregular polygonal or spheroidal shape.

40. (New) The method according to Claim 36 wherein said particles have a regular polygonal or spheroidal shape.

41. (New) The method according to Claim 36 wherein said granular substrate comprises particles having a smooth surface.

42. (New) The method according to Claim 36 wherein said granular substrate is chemically inert.

43. (New) The method according to Claim 36 wherein said granular substrate is a thermoplastic polymer.

44. (New) The method according to Claim 43 wherein the thermoplastic polymer is selected from the group consisting of HD-PE, LD-PE and PP.

45. (New) The method according to Claim 36 wherein the granular substrate has a density of 0.90-0.96 g/cm^3.

46. (New) The method according to Claim 36 wherein said particles comprise at least one hollow enclosure.

47. (New) The method according to Claim 36 further comprising the step of sterilizing the granular substrate by chemical treatment, irradiation or heat.

48. (New) The method according to Claim 36 wherein the granular substrate forms a substrate layer and wherein said substrate layer is 0.5-20 cm thick.

49. (New) The method according to Claim 48 wherein said substrate layer floats on the culture medium.

50. (New) The method according to Claim 49 further comprising the step of aerating the culture medium.

51. (New) The method according to Claim 48 wherein said substrate layer comprises additional embedded support structures, wherein said additional support structures are supported by the granular substrate layer.

52. (New) A culturing kit for culturing plant material comprising a culturing solution, a granular culture substrate floatable in the culturing solution, and a culturing vessel, wherein the granular culture substrate comprises particles having an average diameter of 1-25 mm.

53. (New) The kit according to Claim 52 wherein the granular substrate is chemically inert.

54. (New) The kit according to Claim 53 wherein the granular substrate is a thermoplastic polymer selected from the group consisting of HD-PE, LD-PE and PP.

55. (New) Use of a floatable granular substrate for culturing plant material, wherein the granular substrate is comprised of particles having an average diameter of 1 – 25 mm, and wherein the granular substrate has a density of 0.5 – 1.1 g/cm^3.

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